Provision of fibre cable in WLL

2127. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made plans to "unbundle" the local loop (LLU);

(b) if so, whether MTNL and BSNL have already leased out wholly or partly the local segments of their networks to competitors;

(c) the advantage to MTNL and BSNL by strengthening their private sector competitors;

(d) whether the change from copper wires to fibre optic would involve heavy investment; and

(e) the steps proposed to review these policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) MTNL and BSNL have not leased out copper local loop to the private operators.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The choice of the transmission medium of the network depends upon the techno-economic consideration and the decision is made by the operator based on the requirement of the network, its load, etc.

(e) The Government does not interfere in the commercial decision of the telecom service providers.

Use of BSNL employees in tele marketing

2128. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to study the use of rural-based telecom employees to market tele-products of BSNL;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to offer incentives and rewards to linemen, exchange operators and others to widen the rural subscriber base of BSNL;